



CITY OF SELAH

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Proclamation by the Mayor of Selah, Washington, in Regards to Recent Political Rallies

WHEREAS, there have been multiple political rallies recently in Selah, including rallies by members of the “Black Lives Matter” movement and an earlier unrelated rally that was labeled a “freedom rally” by its sponsors and that included a speech by a candidate for Governor; and

WHEREAS, political issues are inherently contentious and political rallies sometimes cause tension between people who have differing viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, the Selah rallies have been the subject of media reports and have been extensively discussed on social media, and a few residents have posed questions about city policy and about statements that have been attributed to – accurately or inaccurately – City Administrator Donald C. Wayman;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, as the Mayor of Selah, I am hereby issuing this Proclamation in regards to these matters.

All residents have the right to lawfully engage in free speech. This includes rally attendees and it also includes Mr. Wayman.

I am thankful and proud that each of the recent rallies has been peaceful, in contrast to what has unfolded in other cities at certain times over the past three weeks. Violence and property destruction are never appropriate and should never be tolerated.

Mr. Wayman continues to have my full support as our City Administrator. His personal political views are his own. He is entitled to his opinions, no different than how each rally attendee is entitled to his or her own opinions.

The city does not discriminate against political rallies or against rally attendees based on the views that are expressed. Residents should know that Mr. Wayman has never asked city personnel to disrupt any lawful political rally or to only allow rallies if the views expressed align with his personal views. Quite the contrary, he specifically instructed city personnel – weeks prior to the recent Black Lives Matter rallies – that viewpoint-discrimination must never occur. Consistently, all of the recent rallies occurred without disruption because, as I say above, those rallies were peaceful. This includes the recent Black Lives Matter rallies.



Do the lives of black people matter? Of course they do! I believe this, Mr. Wayman believes it, and so do all sensible people. No rational debate is possible on the point. Human life is sacred, across all races and all ethnicities. Skin color is not, and should never be, the determinative factor.

I call on all residents to seek to lessen tensions while still advocating for your personal beliefs. The world needs more unity, not more division. Selah is a great city and residential area. Political debates will continue on and we will continue to strive for the greater good.

DONE this 17th day of June, 2020.



Sherry Raymond, Mayor

ATTEST:



Dale Novobielski, Clerk/Treasurer

